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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-29. (canceled)

30. (currently amended) A blank for formation of a pharmaceutical dosage form for controlled delivery of an active agent, comprising:

an active agent formulation matrix having a groove circumscribing a portion of the external surface of said matrix, wherein the groove has a concave shape.

31-32. (canceled)

33. (original) The blank of claim 30, wherein the depth of said groove is between about 0.1 mm and about 3 mm.

34. (original) The blank of claim 30, wherein the width of said groove is between about 0.5 mm and 10 mm.

35. (original) The blank of claim 30, wherein said active agent formulation matrix has a cylindrical shape, the ends of which are rounded and convex.

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36. (original) A system for fabricating an active agent dosage form for the prolonged delivery of the active agent, comprising:

forming means for forming a band in a groove circumscribed on the external surface of a blank; and

orienting means for orienting, by way of the groove, the blank with respect to said forming means.

37. (original) The system of claim 36, wherein said orienting means comprises means registering with the groove on the blank.

38. (original) The system of claim 37, wherein said means registering with the groove comprises a rotatable wheel.

39. (original) The system of claim 36, wherein said forming means comprises:
a source of material for the band; and
a printing wheel.

40. (original) A system for fabricating an active agent dosage form for the prolonged delivery of the active agent, comprising:
a source of blanks, each of said blanks having a groove circumscribing a portion of the external surface of the blank; and
a banding station that forms a band of insoluble material in the groove.

41. (original) The system of claim 40, wherein said banding station comprises:
a printing means.

42. (original) The system of claim 41, wherein said printing means comprises:
a source of insoluble material; and
a printing wheel.

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43. (original) The system of claim 42, wherein said printing wheel has a substantially planar outer circumferential surface.

44. (original) The system of claim 42, wherein said printing wheel has a concave outer circumferential surface.

45. (original) The system of claim 40, further comprising:
a transport mechanism that transports the blanks from said source to said banding station.

46. (original) The system of claim 45, wherein said transport mechanism comprises:
a stationary table; and
a rotating transport table adapted to rotate over said stationary table.

47. (original) The system of claim 46, wherein said rotating transport table defines a plurality of openings positioned linearly on respective radii, said openings adapted to receive blanks from said source.

48. (original) The system of claim 40, further comprising:
a drying apparatus configured to dry the band.